

Goal of Approach:

While negotiations on loss and damage are taking place at the global level, loss and damage itself is incurred at the local level. The mechanisms to address loss and damage in the next decade will have to be introduced at the national and sub-national level as it is unlikely that an agreement under the UNFCCC will come in time to meet the needs of the world's climate vulnerable people within that time frame. Thus, the onus is on national and sub-national governments to develop policies that address loss and damage. Bangladesh recognized this after the Work Programme on Loss and Damage was established under the Cancun Agreements and approached the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) for help understanding loss and damage and conceptualizing potential mechanisms to address it. From this request the Loss and Damage in Vulnerable Countries Initiative was born. Part of a consortium of organizations implementing the initiative, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) has been charged with coordinating a series of studies on loss and damage in the national context of Bangladesh. One of the goals of this comprehensive approach is to enhance national capacity on loss and damage.

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Main elements of the implementation strategy

The main elements involved in implementing this strategy to increase the national capacity of Bangladesh on loss and damage are as follows:

- Understanding the science through the commissioning of a series of technical papers that will serve as the foundation and inputs of a report that will help policy and decision makers implement policies and programmes that will allow Bangladesh to better address loss and damage to the adverse impacts of climate change.
- Enabling discussions that further ideas on loss and damage through stakeholder workshops, participation in meetings and workshops held by other organizations on the topic and individual meetings with specific stakeholders.
- Examining the legal, policy and institutional aspects of loss and damage at the national level through a study being undertaken by two prominent environmental lawyers in Bangladesh. The study is determining the national context for loss and damage by examining the laws, policies and institutions already in place to address loss and damage and those that would need to be in place in order to implement a mechanism to do so.
- Enhancing the knowledge base at the national level through publications, meetings, workshops and other fora with the aim of engaging a wide range of stakeholders and motivating more research and activities that will help increase the national capacity of Bangladesh in the arena of loss and damage.

Engaging effectively in international discourse through participation in UNFCCC meetings and engagement with negotiators.

Targeted beneficiaries

The targeted beneficiaries of this approach are researchers, practitioners, decision and policy makers as well as other stakeholders working in the field of climate change.

Any significant lessons learned

Initial lessons include the need to engage stakeholders in discussions about what loss and damage is before proceeding to discussions of potential mechanisms to address loss and damage. Loss and damage is a confusing and often misunderstood topic. Moreover, as this is an emerging issue, new stakeholders are constantly joining the discussions. Thus, it's important to provide a platform that allows a wide range of stakeholders to provide their input into these discussions of what loss and damage is and what it means for Bangladesh.

Resource requirements

ICCCAD's work building Bangladesh's capacity on loss and damage has required minimal resources considering the amount of work that has been accomplished. Much of this can be accounted for by the fact that Bangladesh is what many call a "living laboratory" for research on climate change and development issues. Addressing climate change is a significant priority for the Government of Bangladesh. We have been able to engage with high-level representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Forests as well as the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management. We have also been able to engage highly knowledgeable and skilled researchers approaching climate change research from a variety of disciplines. Many of these individuals have given a significant amount of their time to help us build the national capacity of Bangladesh on loss and damage. That said the work has been facilitated through funds provided by CDKN, which allow a full time coordinator and provide support for the research undertaken in Bangladesh.

Potential for replication or scaling-up

There is significant potential for scaling up this work to not only least developed countries (LDCs), but also to any country interested in building its capacity to understand and address loss and damage. We are engaged with stakeholders from other LDCs and have invited several to attend a workshop in Bangladesh in the fall. The aim of the workshop is to facilitate an exchange of knowledge between those engaged in loss and damage work in Bangladesh and those endeavoring to take on similar work in other LDCs.

Any additional information